

April 13, 1999

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am a small market broadcaster from Ohio. The station which I operate was licensed under the 80-90 docket.

My life long dream has been fulfilled by becoming an owner-operator, a goal that I have worked for since my graduation from Ohio University in 1974.

I have worked many long hours at low pay learning small market radio from the bottom up. I watched and waited for my opportunity, and after years of learning and watching, my opportunity became available.

I went through the licensing process, and with meager finances, I organized a corporation and secured a loan to construct WTUZ Radio.

I am very grateful that Congress saw a need for more service on the FM band, and was able to add additional stations without added interference or degradation to the integrity of FM radio.

WTUZ brought a new service, a different voice, to our community. We have been successful and continue to be successful because we saw a need and fulfilled that need. Our county is now served by three diverse formats, which includes local news, public affairs, and community involvement that small market radio is built on.

My purpose in writing you is to express my dismay at the Commissions efforts to legitimize pirate broadcasting. My contention is that if one is dedicated, focused, and determined, one can become a "Broadcaster". As you have read, I have done it.

(continued)



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

APR 19 12 46 PM '99

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

Doc. No. 99-25

RECEIVED

MAY 20 1999

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE _____

(page 2)

I did not whine and complain about my First Amendment rights being violated, I worked hard to accomplish my goal. I am a "Broadcaster". I question the motives, the ability, and the knowledge of those lobbying the Commission to "give" them legitimacy.

The band is crowded. The "pirates", (I refuse to call them broadcasters, micor-broadcasters, or whatever) of course are targeting the major markets, but I'm betting the majority of the new licenses will be dropped into the smaller markets. Small markets being served by competent, dedicated broadcasters. Let the want-a-bes get a job in radio, in the small markets, and work their trade! If they have a problem with lack of programming diversity, form a non-commercial group and apply in the educational portion on the band. I have been taught that's why 88.1 MHz to 91.9 MHz was set aside. The internet is now available, if they want to be heard, the worldwide web is an excellent forum. There are more outlets for expression now than at any time in human history.

I am concerned about FM radios conversion to digital. If we are directed to broadcast in-band, will the integrity of the FM commercial band be worth the expenditure. This will be a major financial and physical undertaking for WTUZ and other small market broadcasters.

In closing, it is not appropriate to hold commercial FM broadcasters at bay because of a power struggle between Congress and the FCC. There will be a time when you and your fellow Commissioners have moved on, but we small market broadcasters will be here, in the thousands of communities across America, serving our listeners and hopefully making a living. Is turning the commercial FM band into a "hobby band" to anyone's benefit.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Edward Schumacher", followed by a horizontal line.

Edward Schumacher
President/General Manager
WTUZ Radio Inc.